

Pennsylvania 19103-2029. In the alternative, EPA will accept comments electronically. Comments should be sent to the following Internet E-mail address: [macknight.evelyn@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:macknight.evelyn@epamail.epa.gov). Electronic comments must be submitted in an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. EPA will print electronic comments in hard-copy paper form for the official administrative record. EPA will attempt to clarify electronic comments if there is an apparent error in transmission. Comments provided electronically will be considered timely if they are submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) March 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Evelyn S. MacKnight, PA/DE Branch (3WP11), Office of Watersheds, Water Protection Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, or telephone her at (215) 814-5717.

Copies of the December 18, 1998, letter describing EPA's findings that provisions adopted by the Commonwealth are inconsistent with the CWA and 40 CFR part 132 are available upon request by contacting Ms. MacKnight. This letter and other related materials submitted by the Commonwealth in support of their submission, are available for review by appointment at: EPA, Region 3, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (telephone 215-814-5751); and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest Regional Office, 230 Chestnut Street, Meadville, Pennsylvania. To access the docket material in Philadelphia, call Ms. Renee Gruber at (215) 566-5751 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) (Monday-Friday); in Meadville, call Mr. Kelly Burch at (814) 332-6816.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 23, 1995, EPA published the Final Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System (Guidance) pursuant to section 118(c)(2) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(2). (March 23, 1995, 60 FR 15366). The Guidance, which was codified at 40 CFR part 132, requires the Great Lakes States to adopt and submit to EPA for approval water quality criteria, methodologies, policies and procedures that are consistent with the Guidance. 40 CFR 132.4 & 132.5. EPA is required to approve of the State's submission within 90 days or notify the State that EPA has determined that all or part of the submission is inconsistent with the Clean Water Act or the Guidance and identify any necessary changes to obtain EPA approval. If the State fails to make the necessary

changes within 90 days, EPA must publish a notice in the **Federal Register** identifying the approved and disapproved elements of the submission and a final rule identifying the provisions of part 132 that shall apply for discharges within the State.

EPA has received the submission from Pennsylvania and has reviewed it for consistency with the Guidance in accordance with 40 CFR part 131 and 132.5. EPA has determined that certain parts of Pennsylvania's submittal are inconsistent with the requirements of the CWA or 40 CFR part 132 and will be subject to EPA disapproval if not corrected. On December 18, 1998, in a letter from EPA Region 3 to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, EPA described in detail those provisions determined to be inconsistent with the Guidance and subject to disapproval if not remedied by the State. The inconsistencies relate to the following components of the State's submission in conformance with section 118(c) of the CWA and 40 CFR Part 132: (1) Water quality criteria for Chromium III to protect aquatic life; (2) water quality criteria to protect human health from cyanide, 2,4-dinitrophenol, and mercury; (3) administrative and scientific requirements for site-specific modification to criteria based on ambient conditions; (4) Appendix A of the Guidance for developing Tier I aquatic life criteria; (5) Appendix B of the Guidance for development of bioaccumulation factors for non-bioaccumulative chemicals of concern; (6) Appendix C of the Guidance for development of Tier I human health criteria; (7) Procedure 3 of Appendix F of the Guidance for developing total maximum daily loads; (8) Procedure 5 for determining reasonable potential to exceed water quality standards; and (9) Procedure 6 for whole effluent toxicity. Today, EPA is soliciting public comment regarding provisions identified in the December 18, 1998, letter as being inconsistent with the CWA and the Guidance, and whether EPA should disapprove those provisions based on its findings pursuant to 40 CFR 123.62 and 132.5.

During the next 90 days, EPA intends to continue working with Pennsylvania to address the inconsistencies identified in the December 18, 1998 letter. If the State fails to remedy any of the inconsistencies identified in the letter, EPA will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** identifying the disapproved elements and the corresponding portions of part 132 that will apply to waters within the Great Lakes Basin in Pennsylvania. With the exception of the

specific inconsistencies identified in the December 18, 1998 letter, EPA believes that the State's submission under part 132 is consistent with federal requirements, and intends to approve those aspects of the submittal when EPA takes final action on the submittal.

**W. Michael McCabe,**

*Regional Administrator, Region III.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-6219-1]

### National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Small Systems Implementation Working Group; Notice of Open Meeting

Under section 10(a)(2) of Pub. L. 92-423, "The Federal Advisory Committee Act," notice is hereby given that a meeting, via teleconference, of the Small Systems Implementation Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f *et seq.*), will be held on January 21, 1999 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460 in Room 1209 of the East Tower. The meeting is open to the public, but due to past experience, seating will be limited.

The purpose of this meeting is to review a draft report summarizing characteristics of small water systems. The meeting is open to the public to observe. The working group members are meeting, via teleconference, to analyze relevant issues and facts and discuss options. Statements will be taken from the public at this meeting, as time allows.

For more information, please contact, Peter E. Shanaghan, Designated Federal Officer, Small Systems Working Group, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (4606), 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 20460. The telephone number is 202-260-5813 and the email address is [shanaghan.peter@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:shanaghan.peter@epamail.epa.gov).

Dated: January 8, 1999.

**Charlene Shaw,**

*Designated Federal Officer, National Drinking Water Advisory Council.*

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